

Quick Tour



**Montana
Department of Transportation**



What we believe.....

Our Mission

**To serve the public by
providing a
transportation system
and services that
emphasize quality,
safety, cost
effectiveness, economic vitality
and
sensitivity to the environment.**

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) encompasses all modes of travel throughout the state. From cars and trucks to airplanes, buses, railroads, and bike and pedestrian paths, we cover it all. We listen to our customers and strive to implement what we hear into our plans and activities.

There are many facets to the work we do, including information services, human resources, accounting, payroll, budgeting, purchasing and auditing. MDT is a diverse organization with over 2,000 dedicated individuals striving toward a common goal – to make living and traveling in Montana a safe and enjoyable experience.



*MDT Headquarters
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-1001*

On the Road...

Have you ever thought about what goes into building and maintaining Montana's highways?

Plan it

- Building a road project involves years of research, planning, design, engineering and budgeting.
- MDT develops the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) each year. It identifies all planned federally-funded transportation-related projects.
- MDT prepares a long-range construction program that addresses statewide transportation needs.
- The department keeps the public involved in the planning process by utilizing a combination of press releases and public meetings.
- The department incorporates factors such as environmental impact studies, safety issues, community development, traffic patterns and land use plans into the planning process.

Transportation Commission

The Transportation Commission is a panel of five private citizens appointed by the governor and representing the people of each district. The Commission works with local government officials, legislators and individual citizens in deciding where to spend the money.



US Highway 93 construction

On the Road...

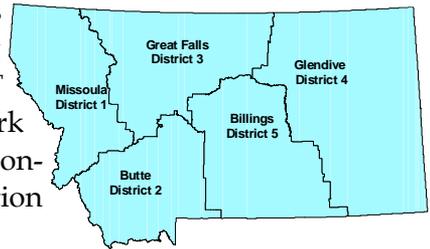
Build it

The construction staff coordinates the project. Duties include:

- preparing the construction packet for the contractor's bid;
- managing construction work ;
- monitoring the project during construction;
- ensuring that all materials meet rigid test criteria;
- conducting formal post-construction reviews.

The five district offices provide services within each geographic area. During highway construction projects, MDT employees oversee construction, work closely with the contractor, conduct construction surveys, inspect construction work and monitor traffic control.

MDT's five districts



Maintain it

MDT's maintenance division utilizes 122 crews throughout five districts to maintain 25,000 lane miles of roads.

MDT's maintenance staff provides the following information to the traveling public:

- an online travel information site that details up-to-the minute Remote Weather Information System conditions at 60 sites across the state;
- photographic images of current conditions at seven of the state's highest traveling elevations;
- rest area information;
- weather forecasts;
- winter travel and summer construction information.



Maintenance worker



MDT snowplow

In the Air...

Did you know that MDT is involved with air travel?

MDT's aeronautics staff:

- inspects all public use airports;
- provides capital planning, engineering and financial assistance to public use airports;
- owns and operates 15 public use airports, including West Yellowstone ;
- owns and maintains many navigational beacons, air to ground radios and nighttime airway beacons;
- administers a loan and grant program for airport development and improvement projects.

Aeronautics Board

The Aeronautics Board, a nine-member advisory board appointed by the governor, oversees spending of all airport grant and loan funds.

Safety and Education

MDT is responsible for registering Montana's 1,800 pilots and 3,000 aircraft. Staff also oversees and promotes air search and rescue operations and aviation safety and education.



Elementary student aviation education program

In the Air...



Winter survival clinic



Air search & rescue clinic



Administration

MDT provides a critical link with the Montana Essential Air Service, International Northwest Aviation Council, the National Association of State Aviation Officials and all the members of the Montana aviation organizations.



Airport improvement programs

Commercial Trucking...

Have you ever wondered why the commercial trucking industry is regulated?

Weight restrictions on commercial trucks protect Montana's highways and help assure the safety of the traveling public.



Truck pulling into MDT weigh station

Trucks put additional stress on Montana's roads, which is why truckers pay extra fees to use them.

MDT's Motor Carrier Services (MCS) regulates commercial trucking by operating weigh stations across Montana. MCS officers check commercial vehicles for proper licenses, size and weight permits, and they inspect vehicles to ensure they meet all safety regulations.

- MCS officers weigh more than 600,000 trucks and inspect more than 35,000 commercial vehicles each year.
- Proceeds from truck permits and fuel taxes provide up to 20% of the funding used to construct and maintain the state highway system.



MCS officers inspecting trucks



Commercial Trucking...



MCS officer sampling for dyed fuel

Dyed Diesel Enforcement

MCS officers also regulate the use of dyed diesel, which is utilized primarily by farmers in off-road equipment (tractors, combines, etc.). Since farmers do not utilize the roadways, their fuel, dyed diesel, is not taxed to pay for road maintenance and improvements. It is illegal to use dyed diesel on public roads.

MCS officers may stop non-commercial diesel powered vehicles on the open road and “sample” their fuel tanks for dyed diesel fuel. Non-compliance may result in civil or criminal penalties.

On-Line Permitting

Using on-line permitting, MCS employees register over 30,000 commercial vehicles and issue over 60,000 permits each year.

Licensing and Permit Technicians provide “one stop” service to the motor carrier industry for:

- commercial vehicle licensing;
- registration;
- fuel;
- single state registration insurance;



MCS online permitting

Weigh In Motion PrePass

MCS also utilizes PrePass, an automatic vehicle identification (AVI) system that allows participating transponder-equipped commercial vehicles to bypass designated weigh stations and port-of entry facilities. PrePass weigh stations employ weigh-in-motion (WIM) scales to electronically weigh the vehicles while AVI antennas verify the truck’s identity and compliance. Montana is integrating this option into several of its stations.

Trains, Buses, Bikes and More...

Did you know that MDT is so diverse?

Here are more areas MDT oversees:

- rail freight and passenger planning;
- public and specialized transportation;
- rest area planning;
- statewide and urban planning;
- bicycle and pedestrian activities;
- project programming;
- TranPlan 21, Montana's statewide transportation plan.



Bozeman Rest Area



Kalispell Transit Bus



*Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Expo -
June 2001*

Trains, Buses, Bikes and More...

MDT also:

- collects and analyzes various types of transportation data;
- plans local enhancements projects through the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP), including bike paths, city parks and landscaping projects;
- maintains city, county and urban maps, including the state's official highway map;
- plays an active role in tourism and economic development activities.



Stevensville Bike Path



Metra Park Path - Billings

Transportation Awareness Program (TAP)

MDT strives to improve public safety and employee morale and participation through the Transportation Awareness Program, or TAP.

TAP team members give public presentations about maintenance activities, construction work zone safety and why MDT does the things we do. Team members also play a key role in educating Montana's teenage drivers by participating in driver education classes.



TAP display at Billings Fair - 2001

Funding

Have you ever wondered where the money comes from to build roads?

MDT monitors and interprets state and federal transportation law to obtain and disburse transportation funds. Several individuals work with legislative and congressional delegations on developing policies regarding federal transportation funds.

Taxes are another way MDT collects funds to build roads. The main source of these taxes is the Motor Fuel Tax, collected from the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel. These taxes help pay for maintenance and construction of the roads.



Road resurfacing crew

Licensing and permits fees from commercial trucking provide additional funds.

MDT provides annual education and training services for internal and external customers to improve voluntary compliance.



Chip spreading machine

In Summary...

As you can see, MDT utilizes a dedicated team to accomplish a variety of transportation related activities.

If you would like additional information, please contact one of the following:

Administration	406-444-7284
Aeronautics	406-444-2506
Bicycle/Pedestrian, Public Transit, Rail	406-444-3423
Commercial Trucking.....	406-444-6130
Construction	406-444-6001
Director's Office	406-444-6201
Employment Opportunities.....	406-444-6049
Engineering.....	406-444-6206
Maintenance.....	406-444-7220
Public Information	406-444-7205
Road Reports.....	800-226-7623
TTY #.....	406-444-7696
Toll Free #.....	800-335-7592
Transportation Commission.....	406-444-7200

Or look MDT up on the web at www.mdt.state.mt.us
Additional job information may be found at
www.jsd.dli.state.mt.us

Travel information and road reports are available at www.mdt.state.mt.us/travinfo.

Notes

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